



U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement

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# News Release

## **FEDERAL EMPLOYEE PLEADS GUILTY TO COMPUTER HACKING TO PROMOTE PROSTITUTION**

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — A federal employee here pleaded guilty in federal court today to illegally using her computer access at the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to promote her own unlawful prostitution business, following an investigation by the Federal Protective Service (FPS), HHS Inspector General, and the Kansas City, Mo., Police.

Candice G. Smith, 44, of Blue Springs, Mo., pleaded guilty before U.S. Chief Magistrate Judge John T. Maughmer this afternoon to charges contained in a March 4 federal indictment. She was originally arrested Feb. 25.

By pleading guilty today, Smith admitted that she made unauthorized and illegal inquiries into the LexisNexis database that is available to her as a payment recovery specialist for the Center for Medicaid Services (an agency of the Department of Health and Human Services).

LexisNexis is a data collection company that provides a database containing non-public information that may only be used for approved purposes, such as credit history and driver's license information, to certain private and government agencies. For example, it is permissible for a government agency to query LexisNexis for law enforcement purposes. LexisNexis may not, however, be queried by an individual to promote personal financial gain.

Smith, who had been working as a prostitute, made LexisNexis inquiries for personal reasons even though she knew that it was prohibited to do so, and she used the information to aid her in avoiding arrest and prosecution for her prostitution activities. Smith queried LexisNexis on numerous occasions, without the authority to do so and for her own purpose.

“Working for the federal government isn’t a license to break the law and then avoid detection,” said Wilfred Calvey, supervisory special agent for FPS Kansas City. “By closely working with the other law enforcement organizations we’ve been able to stop this illegal use of a private database, and put an end to a prostitution operation.”

Under federal statutes, Smith could be subject to a sentence of up to five years in federal prison without parole, plus a fine up to \$250,000. The U.S. Probation Office will schedule a sentencing hearing after completing a pre-sentence investigation.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Jeff Valenti is prosecuting this case. It was investigated by the Federal Protective Service, the Department of Health and Human Service - Office of Inspector General, and the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department.

As an arm of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) under the Department of Homeland Security, FPS protects and secures over one million tenants and daily visitors at federal facilities nationwide. FPS has a workforce of 1,500 special agents, police officers, inspectors, and more than 10,000 contracted personnel.

# ICE #

*U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.*